

equal, the ratio between electrode areas is given by the ratio of the widths w_1 and w_2 . Thus, in some embodiments, the width w_2 of the reference electrode 722 is at least five times greater than the width w_1 of the working electrode 720.

[0093] The distance d_1 between the electrodes 720, 722 can be substantially constant along the length of the electrodes 720, 722 (e.g., parts of the electrodes 720, 722 can be oriented as parallel bars and/or as concentric rings such that the distance d_1 separating them is approximately constant). In some embodiments, the distance d_1 is between about 10 micrometers and about 500 micrometers.

[0094] By situating the working electrode 720 and the reference electrode 722 on the same surface of the substrate 730, the electrodes 720, 722 can be arranged to be approximately coplanar, and the distance d_1 separating the two electrodes 720, 722 can be measured substantially within a plane of the two electrodes.

[0095] The polymeric material 710 includes an interposed portion 712 that is situated between the two electrodes 720, 722. In this configuration, electrical current that is conveyed between the electrodes 720, 722 is passed through the interposed portion 712 of polymeric material 710. For example, such a current can be conveyed ionically (e.g., by electrolytes from the tear film that are absorbed in the polymeric material 710) while an amperometric current is generated by electrochemical reactions at the working electrode 720. The interposed portion 712 thus provides a current carrying medium between the electrodes 720, 722 that is analogous to an electrolyte-containing fluid medium. However, the interposed portion 712 of the polymeric material 710 can have a greater electrical resistance than a typical electrolyte-containing fluid medium. Because of the relatively high electrical resistance of the interposed portion 712, the current conveyed between the electrodes results in a voltage drop across interposed portion 712.

[0096] However, by configuring working electrode 720 with sufficiently small dimensions (e.g., with a width w_1 less than 25 micrometers), the current conveyed between electrodes 720 and 722 can be sufficiently small such that the voltage drop caused by the resistance of interposed portion 712 of the polymeric material 710 is inconsequential to the operation of the electrochemical sensor.

[0097] While such a current is conveyed between the two electrodes, the current density through the two electrodes 720, 722 is inversely proportional to the area of the respective electrodes 720, 722. As a result, the reference electrode 722 experiences a smaller current density than the working electrode 720 (e.g., at least five times less). The smaller current density allows the voltage on the reference electrode 722 to be relatively less affected by the conveyed current and thereby facilitates the operation of a potentiostat (or other control module) to apply a stable voltage difference between the electrodes 720, 722 while measuring the amperometric current through the working electrode.

[0098] A reagent layer 724 can be localized proximate the working electrode 720. The reagent layer 724 can sensitize the two-electrode electrochemical sensor to an analyte of interest. For example, glucose oxidase can be employed to detect glucose by catalyzing glucose oxidation to generate hydrogen peroxide, which is then oxidized at the working electrode 720. The reagent layer 724 can be fixed to wholly or partially surround the working electrode 720, for example. In some embodiments, the reagent layer 724 can be fixed proximate only the working electrode 720, and not the reference

electrode 722. In some embodiments, a reagent layer can be overlaid to cover both electrodes 720, 722.

[0099] FIG. 7B illustrates an example non-coplanar arrangement for electrodes in a two-electrode electrochemical sensor. In particular, FIG. 7B shows a perspective cross-sectional view of electrodes mounted on a substrate 760 that is covered by a layer polymeric material 740. Thus, the two-electrode electrochemical sensor includes a working electrode 750 and a reference electrode 752, and the polymeric material 740 includes a portion 741 (indicated by dashed lines) that covers the electrodes 750, 752. In some examples, polymeric material 740 has an exposed surface 742 that can be a surface configured to contact mounted to a corneal surface of an eye, similar to the concave surface 226 of the eye-mountable device 210 discussed above in connection with FIG. 2. The exposed surface 742 can also be suitable for avoiding interference with eyelid motion while an opposing surface of the polymeric material is contact mounted to an eye, similar to the convex surface 224 of the eye-mountable device 210 discussed above in connection with FIG. 2. Thus, the electrodes 750, 752 can be mounted to an eye-facing surface and/or an outward facing surface of the substrate 760.

[0100] The substrate 760 can be shaped as a flattened ring suitable for being mounted within an eye-mountable polymeric material, similar to the substrates described above. The reference electrode 752 and the working electrode 750 are mounted to the substrate 740 to be non-coplanar. That is, the electrodes 750, 752 can be mounted with the working electrode 750 stacked over the reference electrode 752 such that the working electrode 750 is a greater distance from the exposed surface 742 of the polymeric material 740 than the working electrode 750. As a result, where the exposed surface 742 is mounted over an eye, the working electrode 750 is closer to the surface of the eye than the reference electrode 752 by the distance d_2 separating the two electrodes 750, 752. The separation distance d_2 between the two electrodes 750, 752 is therefore measured transverse to the planes of the two electrodes.

[0101] The dimensions of the working electrode 750 and the reference electrode 752, respectively can be similar to the dimensions of the working electrode 720 and the reference electrode 722 described above in connection with FIG. 7A. For example, the area of the reference electrode 752 can be at least five times greater than the area of the working electrode 750.

[0102] Current between the electrodes 750, 752 can be conveyed through an interposed portion 762 of the polymeric material 740. Electrical current can be carried ionically between the electrodes 750, 752 through interposed portion 762 in a manner similar to the interposed portion 712 described in connection with FIG. 7A above.

[0103] A reagent layer 754 can be localized proximate the working electrode 750. The reagent layer 754 can sensitize the two-electrode electrochemical sensor to an analyte of interest. For example, glucose oxidase can be employed to detect glucose by catalyzing glucose oxidation to generate hydrogen peroxide, which is then oxidized at the working electrode 750. The reagent layer 754 can be fixed to wholly or partially surround the working electrode 750, for example. In some embodiments, the reagent layer 754 can be fixed proximate only the working electrode 750, without being proximate the reference electrode 752. In some embodiments, a reagent layer can be overlaid to cover both electrodes 750, 752.